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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

111959

COUNTRY Greece

DATE:

INFO. August 1947

SUBJECT IDEA Alert against Possible Dictatorship  
in Greece

DIST. 22  
XX September 1947

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This document is hereby regraded to  
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the  
letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Archivist of the United States.

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN  
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1. After the Government crisis broke on 23 August, IDEA took measures intended to forestall the establishment of a dictatorship. IDEA had received reports from many sources that Generals Ventiris and Plastiras were each making preparations separately to seize power and to impose a military dictatorship if a suitable opportunity arose.
2. IDEA is opposed to the establishment of a dictatorship, regarding the results as harmful for Greece, and would reject the above-named Generals as entirely unsuitable even if this solution should be proved to be the only possible way to face the emergency. It was believed that neither Ventiris nor Plastiras could stage a successful coup d'etat against the opposition of IDEA, and an effort in this direction was regarded as unlikely. Nevertheless the measures taken by IDEA were adopted with the aim of rousing the members into a state of internal alertness.
3. The alert was chiefly for the Athens area and was considered to be completely successful. The principal members of IDEA were in constant communication with each other and with certain elements outside the organization. Liaison with the units was satisfactory, and many garrisons in the provinces which had no instructions, nevertheless communicated by telephone with IDEA and asked for orders. It was shown that almost all the units are, or can be brought, into the hands of officers of IDEA. This is the first time that measures of such extent have been attempted by IDEA, and the officers were satisfied with this demonstration of power.
4. Various other individuals, whose actions are not so evident as those of Ventiris or Plastiras, are moving to obtain power and should be kept under observation. One of these is a man named Flytzanopoulos, who was in the Security Battalions during the occupation. After his acquittal by the Collaborators Court, he established an office in the Megaron Giannarou where he receives his followers. His lieutenants are those who worked with him during the occupation, and he is attempting to gain the cooperation of Dertilis.
5. The following is a close translation of a circular issued by the organization IDEA on 30 August 1947.

- (1) Recently rumors have been circulating about certain elements of the military-political party movements that developed particularly in the pre-war periods. It is rumored that, profiting from the weakness of the political leaders and by the present shabby parliamentary representation

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of the nation, they are preparing to seize power by a coup d'etat.

- (2) On this subject information has been gathered, including that concerning the circulation of a register in the garrison at Salonika.
- (3) The extent of the danger to the nation from such activity requires no analysis. The danger comes not only from international conditions but also from the unworthiness of the persons who are spoken of as possible dictators.
- (4) First of all IDEA does not regard such attempts as likely at present. Nevertheless we ought to be always alert to meet any such attempt, which should be choked off before it manifests itself.
- (5) Every bit of evidence or information on this subject should be transmitted at once.

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